



International Newsletter



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May 2011

Deputy Mayor of Nice, France



April 12— Houston Mayor Annise Parker and Council Member Jolanda Jones met with the Deputy Mayor of Nice, Mr. Rudy Salles, to discuss the bilateral ties between the two cities. Houston and Nice have been Sister Cities since 1973, a relationship established by Mayor Louie Welch. Nice is the capital of the Riviera province and the fifth largest city in France. Houston's relationship with Nice has contributed to its annual trade with France, which is valued at over \$3.1 billion.

Ambassador of the Republic of Austria



April 12— Mayor Annise Parker and Councilmember Jolanda Jones met with the Ambassador of Austria to the U.S., His Excellency Dr. Christian Prosl, to discuss the strong and growing relations between Austria and Houston. Austria ranks among the top ten members of the European Union in GDP and has strong trade ties to Houston—valued at \$650 million in 2010. Austria has emerged as an important gateway as Houston-based global corporations expand further into Eastern European markets.

Vice Mayor of Weihai, People's Republic of China



April 21—Houston Vice Mayor Pro Tem Ed Gonzalez met with Vice Mayor of Weihai, Mr. Liu Maode, and a four-member delegation of government officials and experts. Vice Mayor Gonzalez highlighted similarities between Houston and Weihai, such as both cities having major ports and both pursuing Hi-Tech development initiatives. The delegation expressed its interest in exploring business and economic development opportunities between Houston and Weihai, following the courtesy visit at the Greater Houston Partnership and the Texas Medical Center.

U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service



April 27— Mayor Annise Parker met with Mr. Suresh Kumar, Assistant Secretary and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, to discuss collaboration opportunities in order to expand Houston's foreign trade. Assistant Secretary Kumar highlighted some of the unique services provided by the Commercial Service, and asked for the Mayor's assistance in promoting those to the Houston business community. Mayor Parker provided an update on various business initiatives promoted by the City of Houston.

Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya



April 29—City of Houston Controller Ronald Green and Councilmember Jarvis Johnson met with the Honorable Elkanah Odembo, Kenya's Ambassador to the U.S. Ambassador Odembo was hosted in City Hall by the Mayor's International Trade and Development Council (MITDC) for Africa, headed by its regional Chairman, Dr. Philip Aitsebaomo, and with support and participation of Mr. Peter Brown, the MITDC Executive Chairman. Members engaged Ambassador Odembo on issues relating to the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act, emerging economic trends in Africa and opportunities for mutual exchanges in areas of education and business.

Houston Advanced Research Center

The Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) is a non-partisan, non-profit research organization dedicated to creating long-term sustainable prosperity and human well-being. Businessman George P. Mitchell, supported by four Texas universities, created HARC in 1982. The research and development agenda at HARC includes programs on Air & Climate, Land, Water, People, and Clean Energy.

HARC often plays a bridging role, linking producers and users of scientific and engineering information to facilitate society's adoption of best technologies and policies. The HARC staff is selected for high quality research, technical, and social skills necessary to leading collaborative projects. Our research and business staffs have broad experience with both basic and applied science, technology, social science, policy analysis, government sponsored programs, and working with the corporate sector.

HARC currently has several international projects underway or in development. Collaborative research projects with China are being developed. This program currently includes co-organizing international industrial conferences twice a year in China, and working with Chinese companies on demonstrating advanced engine emission control technologies necessary to meeting anticipated future air quality standards. HARC staff visited China multiple times in 2010 and hosted two delegations from Chinese auto manufacturers during their visits to Houston.

The Environmentally Friendly Drilling System program at HARC is being considered for participation in an international assessment assisting Ukraine with the design of an environmentally sound framework for pursuing shale gas development. The ultimate goal of this assessment is to support the Government of Ukraine in its decision-making about whether and how to proceed with shale gas development in an environmentally sound manner.

HARC is engaged in the early stages of organizing a Canada—U.S. Arctic science research program that will include multiple scientific field campaigns and expanded monitoring and modeling of the responses of boreal and arctic ecosystems to climate variability and change.

For further information please visit www.harc.edu.

-By Robert Harriss, Houston Advanced Research Center



UK Trade and Investment

An integral part of the British Consulate General Houston is UK Trade & Investment (UKTI). Its mission is to deliver maximum value for the UK economy in an increasingly globalised and competitive world. In the current challenging economic climate, UKTI seeks to help UK businesses develop their international trade potential and access new markets. It plays a major role in facilitating an export-led recovery, through delivering the international component of the Government's strategy to secure the UK's future economic prosperity.

According to the Greater Houston Partnership, the Houston/Galveston Customs District ranks as the United Kingdom's 2nd largest U.S. trade district. The United Kingdom ranks as Houston's 7th largest international trade partner. *Uniwold Business* reports 517 firms in the Houston region operate 2,554 subsidiary locations in the UK. And firms based in the United Kingdom operate 161 subsidiary locations in the Houston metro area. On the boarder picture of the State of Texas, UK and the state exchange approximately \$8 billion in trade annually. In addition, the UK generates about 74,000 jobs across the state of Texas, the majority in Houston. UKTI Houston works with UK companies to identify distributors, partners and customers in Greater Houston and Texas markets.

On the investment side, UKTI also works with Houston-based companies interested in expanding into Europe via the UK, a marketplace the size of the US. While UKTI offers a broad range of services, open to all sectors and all types and sizes of company, UKTI Houston focuses on growing industries, including Energy—both conventional oil & gas to renewable; Life Sciences; Financial Services; Information Technology; and Food/Drink/Retail. Its range of expert services can be tailored to the needs of individual businesses by providing them with knowledge, advice and practical support. Historically, UKTI Houston takes about 20 companies into the UK market each year.

UKTI's global services are free and confidential to corporations interested in investing in the UK. They offer consultations on location choices; benchmarking UK vs. EU countries; regulatory information, including tax, accounting and employment rules; introductions to professional services, including legal, financial and banking. It can also offer advice on incentives offered by different authorities for locating in a region within the UK.

In addition to offering trade and investment services, UKTI Houston supports large-scale events, including the UK's presence at the Offshore Technology Conference. Approximately, 400 UK energy companies participate in the show. As part of its program offering, UKTI Houston hosts topical events that bring experts together to discuss pressing issues of the day.

During the year, UKTI Houston supports events that promote business, including visits by ministers and industry leaders; sector Road Shows; participation in a range of exhibitions and conferences that demonstrate UK leadership and innovation. As a Corporate Citizen, UKTI is active in the community and sponsors BioHouston's Texas Life Science Conference, the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship, and the British American Business Council.

UKTI Houston is about building relationships; expanding trade between Houston and the UK; and making sure local companies have access to new European markets, entering them with a strong competitive advantage and a clear understanding of how doing business in the UK is a good idea.

- By R. Mitchell Jeffry, British Consulate-General Houston



Event Spotlights

Offshore Technology Conference

May 1-5—An estimated 65,000 attendees and over 2000 participating companies congregate for the Offshore Technology Conference, which is billed as the world's foremost event for developing offshore oil and gas resources. The OTC itself is comprised of informational sessions, company presentations, business-to-business interactions, in addition to countless unaffiliated dinners and events which are hosted by a variety of business organizations around the city. For more information, please visit: www.otcnet.org.

Roundtable Update: Saudi Arabia

May 2—The Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce will host a roundtable update on Saudi Arabia at the Law Offices of Bracewell & Giuliani. This informative session will grant attendees unique insight into the most recent business developments and perspectives concerning Saudi Arabia. For more information, please visit: www.bilateralchamber.org.

Gulf of Guinea Energy Forum

May 2—The Greater Houston Partnership's World Bank Task Force, in collaboration with the U.S.-Angolan Chamber of Commerce, will host the 3rd Annual Gulf of Guinea Energy Forum. The Forum will focus on policy issues and business opportunities in Ghana, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria. For more information, please e-mail bmendonca@us-angola.org.

Brazil-Texas Luncheon

May 3—The Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce will host a business luncheon at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Jose Sergio Gabrielli de Azevedo, CEO and President of Petrobras. For further information, please visit: www.braziltexas.org.

Malaysia Industry Breakfast

May 4—The U.S. Commercial Service, in partnership with the Malaysia Investment Development Agency, will host a briefing breakfast on business opportunities in the Malaysia. Malaysia is one of Southeast Asia's leading oil and gas producing countries, and numerous Houston companies have formed enduring partnerships in this region. For more information, please e-mail: Danielle.Caltabiano@trade.gov.

Houston East End Chamber Executive Roundtable

May 13— The Houston East End Chamber will host a roundtable discussion at Brady's Landing restaurant. The discussion will focus on how the events in the Middle East are impacting the oil and chemical industries in general and in Houston. For more information, please visit www.eecoc.org.

International Event Calendar - May 2011

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
5/1	1:00 PM	Offshore Technology Conference: Conference 2011 through May 5, 2011	Reliant Arena	www.otcnet.org
	7:00 PM	Newfoundland Oil & Gas Association: Reception	Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel	noia@noianet.com
5/2	7:00 AM	U.S.-Brazil Energy Forum: U.S.-Brazil Energy Leaders Breakfast	InterContinental Hotel	info@usbrazilenergyforum.com
	9:00 AM	Greater Houston Partnership World Bank Group Task Force and the U.S.-Angola Chamber of Commerce: 3rd Annual Gulf of Guinea Energy Forum	Greater Houston Partnership	bmendonca@us-angola.org
	9:00 AM	Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce: Doing Business in the U.A.E	Fulbright & Jaworski LLP	Hala@bilateralchamber.org
	10:00 AM	Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce: Roundtable Update on Saudi Arabia	Bracewell & Giuliani LLP	Hala@bilateralchamber.org
	11:30 AM	World Energy Cities Partnership: Annual Luncheon	Hotel Zaza	wecp@houston.tx.gov
	6:30 PM	Bilateral U.S - Arab Chamber of Commerce: 14th Annual Offshore Technology Conference Reception	InterContinental Hotel	www.bilateralchamber.org
	6:30 PM	Canadian Consulate: Canada Networking Reception	Downtown Aquarium	Bernardino.trevilla-langer@international.gc.ca
	6:30 PM	Shandong Chamber of Commerce for Petroleum Equipment: Reception for Chinese Petroleum Equipment Manufacturers	Houston International Trade Center	jimwu@usachinabridge.com
5/3	7:30 AM	U.S. Commercial Services: Mexico Industry Breakfast	Reliant Arena	Danielle.Caltabiano@trade.gov
	7:30 AM	Alief Community Association: Networking Breakfast	International Trade Center	aliefcommunityassociation@gmail.com
	9:00 AM	U.S. Commercial Service: Showtime Market Consultations	Reliant Arena	Danielle.Caltabiano@trade.gov
	11:00 AM	Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce: Annual OTC Luncheon featuring Mr Jose Sergio Gabrielli de Azevedo, President and CEO of Petrobras	Crowne Plaza Hotel	www.braziltexas.org
	5:30 PM	Houston-Luanda Sister City Association, Inc. and the U.S.-Angola Chamber of Commerce: Partnership Agreement Signing Ceremony	Crowne Plaza Houston River Oaks Hotel	bmendonca@us-angola.org
	6:00 PM	World Energy Cities Partnership: Networking Reception	Hotel Zaza	wecp@houston.tx.gov
5/4	7:30 AM	U.S. Commercial Services: Malaysia Industry Breakfast	Reliant Arena	Danielle.Caltabiano@trade.gov

5/4	8:00 AM	Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce: Annual Breakfast—Update on Petrobras' Technology Strategy and Rio - Brazil's Energy Capital	The Houstonian Hotel	www.braziltexas.org
	9:00 AM	U.S. Commercial Services: Business-to-Business Matchmaking Meetings	Reliant Arena	Danielle.Caltabiano@trade.gov
	9:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: China-U.S. Forum on Petroleum and Petrochemical Equipment	DoubleTree hotel	jshen@houston.org
	4:00 PM	IAPH Houston: Cocktail Mixer featuring the Argentine Group of Suppliers to Oil and Gas Industry	Reliant Arena	info@gapp-oil.com.ar
	6:00 PM	U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council and the America Business Association: Reception honoring a delegation of Saudi companies	The Westin Galleria	www.us-sabc.org
	6:30 PM	Greater Houston Partnership: Malaysia Networking Reception	The Westin Oaks	jshen@houston.org
5/5	7:30 AM	U.S. Commercial Services: Cyprus Industry Breakfast	Reliant Arena	Danielle.Caltabiano@trade.gov
	8:30 AM	United States Trade and Development Agency: South Africa LNG Business Briefing	Westin Oaks Hotel	obrescia@gmc-ideas.com
5/6	11:00 AM	Powerful Women International: Connection Power Luncheon	Hotel Indigo	832-276-4153
	7:30 PM	U.S. Bilateral African Chamber of Commerce: The Future of Africa	Houston Museum of African American Culture	www.usbacc.org
5/9	Noon	Houston Economics Club: The Role Quality of Life Plays in Building the Region's Economy	Federal Reserve Bank	(713) 844-3651
5/10	5:00 PM	British-American Foundation of Texas: Scholarship Awards Dinner	The Federal Reserve	www.babchouston.org
	6:30 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: NATO's New Relevance—Libya and Beyond	Junior League	info@wachouston.org
5/12	8:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Port of Houston Tour and Luncheon	Two Allen Center	jreese@houston.org
	5:30 PM	Greater Houston Partnership and Dentiq Dentistry: Partnership PM	Dentiq Dentistry	amcfarland@houston.org
	5:30 PM	Australian-American Chamber of Commerce: Sundowner	Branch Water Tavern	www.aacc-houston.org
	6:30 PM	Houston Technology Center: Annual Gala—A Celebration of Entrepreneurs	Houston Technology Center	www.houstontech.org
5/13	8:00 AM	Houston East End Chamber: Executive Roundtable	Brady's Landing	frontdesk@eecoc.org
	12:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: Colombia's Transformation	Hilton Americans Hotel	info@wachouston.org

5/17	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Thought Leader Series	Westin Galleria Hotel	jreese@houston.org
	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Texas Politics—Where We Are, Where We're Going	Westin Galleria	jreese@houston.org
	6:30 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: The New Silk Road—The Growing Economic Corridor between the Middle East and Asia	The Junior League	info@wachouston.org
5/18	7:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership and the Houston Business Journal: Houston Growth Summit	Wortham Theater	lasemmel@bizjournals.com
5/19	4:00 PM	Houston Young Professionals Endeavor: Battle of the Business Bands	The House of Blues	lasemmel@bizjournals.com
	6:30 PM	The Asian Chamber of Commerce: 21st Annual Gala	The Westin Memorial City Hotel	www.asianchamber-hou.org
5/20	9:00 AM	11th Annual Diversity Summit	Sugar Land Marriott	cecil.fong@gmail.com
5/25	3:00 PM	Greater Houston Partnership: Energy Collaborative Leadership Committee	Greater Houston Partnership	crhodes@houston.org
5/25	6:30 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: China's Global Presence and Domestic Challenges	The Junior League	info@wachouston.org

International Cultural Events in Houston:

5/2	8:30 AM	Russian Cultural Center: Russian Art and Souvenirs Sale	Russian Cultural Center	www.ourtex.org
5/3	7:00 PM	Asia Society Texas Center: Pakistan Arts and Culture Series	United Way of Greater Houston	txcenter@asiasoc.org
	7:00 PM	Rice University Multicultural Community Relations in the Office of Public Affairs: A Chance to Make History	Rice University	www.achancetomakehistory.org
5/4	4:00 PM	Texas Medical Center: Fiesta at the Commons!	John P. McGovern Texas Medical Center Commons	knichols@texasmedicalcenter.org
5/5	8:00 PM	Society For the Performing Arts: Corella Ballet Castilla y Leon	Jones Hall	www.spahouston.org
5/7	8:00 AM	The Indonesian Consul General: Annual Indonesian Golf Gathering	Wildcat Golf Club	wiwidarwono@aol.com
	3:30 PM	Houston-Baku Sister City Association: Azerbaijan National Folk Dance Ensemble (also on 5/8 at 4:30 PM)	Houston IFest	www.ifest.org
	5:00 PM	Society for the Performing Arts: Thomas and Friends Live! On Stage in "Thomas Saves the Day"	Jones Hall	www.spahouston.org

5/7	6:00 PM	Tagore Society of Houston: City Proclamation of Rabindranath Tagore Day - Festival Kick off	India House	www.tagoresociety.org
5/8	2:00 PM	Society for the Performing Arts: Thomas and Friends Live! On Stage in "Thomas Saves the Day"	Jones Hall	www.spahouston.org
5/12	8:00 PM	Society for the Performing Arts: The intergalactic Nemesis: Live Action Graphic Novel	Wortham Center's Cullen Theater	www.spahouston.org
5/14	5:00 PM	British-American Business Council: Royal Ascot Day	Sam Houston Race Park	www.babchouston.org
5/16	7:30 PM	Russian Cultural Center: Musical Evening with Hans Graf - Igor Stravinsky	Russian Cultural Center	rcc@ourtx.com
5/29	6:00 PM	Tagore Society of Houston: Perna—Glimpses of Tagore and Chitresh Das	Old Stafford Civic Center	www.tagoresociety.org

Events hosted by International Partner Cities of Houston:

5/9-11	LAGO Energy: 9th Annual Latin America Leadership Forum	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	www.lagoenergyusa.com
5/18-24	The 14th China Chongqing International Investment and Global Sourcing Fair	Chongqing, China	www.ccisf.com
6/8-10	4th China International Service Outsourcing Cooperation Conference	Nanjing, China	events@ygtonline.co.uk.
9/14-17	Dailian International Sister Cities Youth Art Festival	Dalian, China	www.english.dl.gov.cn
9/20-22	Rio Pipeline 2011 Conference and Exposition	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	www.ibp.org.br
11/3-5	China Communication and Transportation Association	Ningbo City, China	(580) 151-9370
11/8	China National Development and Reform Commission	Beijing, China	(610) 597-9908

The International Newsletter is published monthly by the Mayor's Office of International Trade & Development, City of Houston, Texas

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